354 When the tent owner has sat down with his guests, he calls to his sons or slaves: "Dig out the fireplace, *ehefrû lan-*
[554 *nâr.*" With the more important chiefs the fireplace is always
463] dug by a slave, who is entrusted with the preparation of the coffee. The fireplace consists of a rectangular or circular hole about twenty centimeters deep, from the size and form of which it is possible years afterwards to judge with certainty
412 to which chief the tent belonged. It is dug with an implement
● 332 called *fâz*, which at one end terminates in a mattock and at the other end in a hatchet and is fastened on a long wooden
354 helve; the double hoe, having at one end a mattock and at the other a pick, is called *kaddûm* or *tubal*. The ordinary
354 Rwejli digs a smaller fireplace, which is nearer the front edge of the tent. In the cold season the fireplace is close to the carpets for the guests, while in the hot season it is about the middle of the men's compartment. The clay which is dug out is thrown into a heap near the hole forming the fireplace, *ḥufrat an-nâr*, and just below the edge of the tent. On it are
[574] shaken the ashes from the fireplace. The larger this heap, known as *neṭile*, the more hospitable is the owner of the tent, for coffee is prepared for the guests on the fireplace in the men's compartment only and beside the fire the guests may
372 warm themselves. Beside the fireplace is placed a pile of fuel, consisting of dry roots and stalks of various plants, *ḥaṭab*, and dry camels' excrements. The best fuel is the dry wood of the *ṛaṛa'* shrubs. It gives off scarcely any smoke, throws out a great heat, and holds the glowing embers for several hours before subsiding. The worst fuel consists of the dry *šiḥ* which blazes up with a bright red flame, crackles as if gunpowder had been scattered on it, but it does not form embers
[462] and does not maintain the heat. The fuel is collected by the female slaves and women. If the chief has not a sufficient supply of fuel, he sends to the surrounding tents for it, or the men themselves bring it to him.

FURNISHINGS OF THE WOMEN'S COMPARTMENT

353 The women and the slaves carry all the utensils and vessels into the women's compartment. Carpets and coverlets on which to sleep are placed in the corner against the divid-
[251] ing wall. Sacks containing wheat, barley, dates, butter, salt, sugar, coffee, rice, or *tummen* (a kind of rice), are stored up against the back wall.